



Maintenance Awards Presented at Conference

A great mix of aviation industry representatives offered valuable training at this year's Aircraft Mechanics Refresher Seminar March 2 & 3 held in conjunction with the Montana Aviation Conference. Steve Jones of the Helena Flight Standards District Office presented the Diamond Certificate of Excellence Award, to Merlin Airways, Billings; Minuteman Aviation, Missoula; Yellowstone Jet Center, Bozeman; Neptune Aviation Services, Missoula; Semitool, Inc., Kalispell; Corporate Air, Billings; Big Sky Airlines, Billings. The Special Recognition Certificate was awarded to Mike Mamuzich, Mark Mamuzich & Bryon Schreckendgust for



Steve Jones, Helena FSDO presents the Charles Taylor "Master Mechanic" Award to Raymond Wicks of Huson. Mr. Wicks began his aviation career with Johnson Flying Service in 1949.



Governor Judy Martz took time from her busy schedule to fly to Kalispell and speak at Thursday's kick-off luncheon, we thank Governor Martz for her continued support of the conference and aviation in Montana.

their assistance in an aircraft accident at the Hamilton airport in July. The Aviation Maintenance Technician of the Year Award went to Reed Lamb, Kalispell and Paul Lehman, Billings. The Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award was given to Eugene Ball, Missoula; Melvin Love, Three Forks; and Raymond Wicks, Huson.

Many contributed to the success of the conference and it would not be possible without the generous support of those who give so freely to make this truly one of the "best state aviation conferences" in the country. Thanks to the following sponsors: Air BP/City Service, Inc., A-1 Paving, Aerospace Products, Int'l, Big Sky Airlines, Billmeyer Engineering, C.G. Aviation, Corporate Air, Exxon, Flathead Municipal Airport Authority, Holman Aviation, Interstate Engineering, Kadrmass, Lee & Jackson, Lynch Flying Service, Minuteman Aviation, Montana Antique Airplane Association, Montana First National Bank, Montanair, Morrison-Mairerle, Inc., Northwest Airlines, Nupac Paving, Robert Peccia & Associates, Semitool, Smith Aviation Testing, Stevens Aviation, Stelling Engineers, Strand Aviation, Valley Oil. Thanks, again for your support. For more on maintenance awards and the 2001 Aviation Conference see page 4 & 5 of the newsletter. ➔

Administrators Column

Grand Canyon Air Tour Restrictions

- The United States Air Tour Association (USATA) said that it expects the FAA to publish the route changes in the Federal Register despite recent letter's of opposition from two Nevada Senators to FAA Administrator Jane Garvey. USATA said that the FAA's decision to begin implementing those changes on April 19 is an "unconscionable act of callous disregard for the safety of Grand Canyon air tour passengers and the economic viability of southern Nevada air tour companies." ➔

GA Sets New Safety Record

- The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) announced that preliminary statistics show the year 2000 was the safest year ever for "non-airline" general aviation. Bruce Landsberg, Executive Director of the Aircraft Owners And Pilots Association (AOPA) Air Safety Foundation (ASF) stated "Even though there was four percent increase in number of hours flown, the total number of general aviation accidents declined four percent to a record low of 1,835." There were 1,913 accidents in 1999. Landsberg further stated, "The total accident rate and the fatal accident rate were each the lowest recorded since government record-keeping began in 1938." General aviation flew an estimated 30.8 million hours last year. According to NTSB preliminary data, the fatal accident rate declined to 1.11 accidents per 100,000 hours flown. That represents a 44% improvement from the 1982 fatal accident rate of 1.99. There were 591 fatal accidents in 1982 and 341 in 2000. Even though flight training increased last year, the total number of instructional accidents declined by 3% but the number of fatal instructional accidents increased from 21 to 34. Personal flying accidents dropped 4.9% and business flying accidents declined 6.7%. The number of mid-air collisions increased by one to 18 in 2000 with 10 resulting in fatalities. Landsberg stated that "Mid-air collisions are still extraordinarily rare, less than 1% of all accidents, and the number of mid-air remains fairly constant year to year." ➔

Business Jets Must Install ELT's

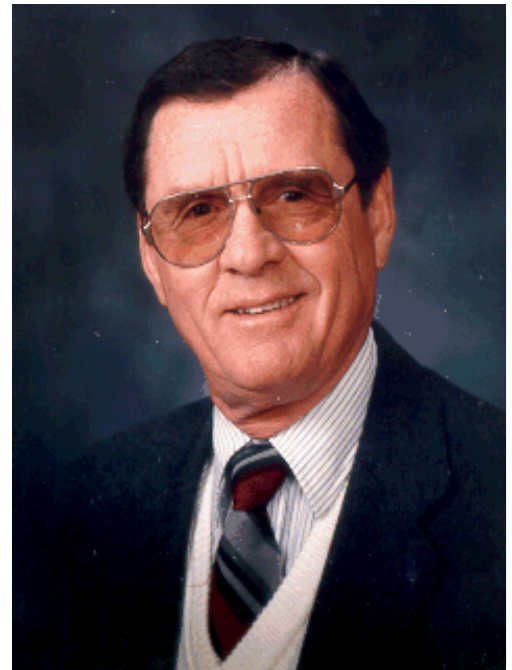
- In response to a Congressional mandate the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has given all business jet operators until January 1, 2004 to install emergency locator transmitters (ELT). Turbine powered aircraft and aircraft operated in scheduled commercial service were exempted in the 1971 rule to install ELT's. Due to a Learjet being found 17 miles from a New Hampshire airport three years after crashing, Congress removed the exemption as part of AIR-21 Legislation which passed last year. ➔

President Bush Urged to Roll Back Clinton Policies

- Representative James Hansen (Utah), the new chairman of the House Resources Committee is urging President Bush to roll back some of the land use policies promulgated by the Clinton Administration. Rep. Hansen is seeking President Bush's support in overturning some initiatives, including a series of restrictions on air tour operators flying near national parks. Hansen has been critical of the questionable scientific data used by the National Park Service in justifying proposals to sharply limit air tours at the Grand Canyon. ➔

Certified Mechanic Shortage Looming

- In a letter to President Bush the Professional Aviation Maintenance Association (PAMA) warned, "devastating shortage of certified and experienced maintenance technicians is looming." Representative James Oberstar (Minnesota), ranking member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, requested the General Accounting Office (the investigative arm of Congress) study the potential shortage of certified aviation mechanics due to retirements and whether new mechanics will be trained in the latest technologies and have the skills they need to work on the future generation of aircraft. ➔



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Changes in Aeronautics Personnel

Jim Greil was hired as the Aeronautics Division Bureau Chief of Airport Airways on March 12; Jim has been with the Aeronautics Division for 7 years and has been a great asset to the Division. We congratulate him on his new position.

Tina Blankinship who served as the Division's Administrative Support for a few short months has decided to move on to bigger and better things; she left the Division on March 30 and has gone to Phoenix, Arizona to explore other opportunities. Although she will be missed we wish her well in her new endeavors.

Calling All Pilots!

The Airport Inn Restaurant & Lounge
(Across the street from Stanford Airport)

Opening
May 26, 2001

FEATURING:

Soup & Salad Bar
Soup, Salad & Dinner Buffet
Lovely New Menu
Exciting "New Concept"
Cocktail Lounge
Flying Décor Throughout
New Owners, New Look,
New Everything

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Gerald & "TJ" Hart, Owners
Linda Hohenstein, Manager

Calendar

April 8-14 – Sun 'n Fun EAA Fly-In, Lakeland, FL.

April 20-22 – 2001 Montana Wing Civil Air Patrol Conference – Bozeman, Holiday Inn. Contact Lt. Colonel Peter Graf – (406) 388-4152. All pilots and aviation enthusiasts are welcome to stop by.

April 26-28 – Aircraft Electronics Association 44th Annual Convention & Trade Show, Dallas, TX – for further information call AEA at (816) 373-6565 or check out convention information online at www.aea.net.

May 14-18 – Laurel Aviation and Technology Week, call Laurel School (406) 628-6919 for more information.

May 26-28 – Benchmark Work Session.

June 2 – AOPA Fly-In and Open House, AOPA Headquarters, Frederick Municipal Airport, Maryland

June 2 & 3 - Annual work session for Spotted Bear & Meadow Creek Airstrips. Barbeque held at Spotted Bear Airstrip.

June 9 - Work Session Wurtz Airstrip (North Fork Flathead Drainage) permission from USFS required to fly-in otherwise drive-in.

June 9 – International Young Eagles Day (see article on page 7 of newsletter).

June 10 - Work Session Sondreson Airstrip, **drive-in only**.

June 17 – Annual Father's Day Poorboy Sourdough Pancake Breakfast Feed, Bass's Beacon Star Airfield, Moore, MT.

June 30 – Fly-In Pancake Breakfast, Hamilton Airport, for additional information call (406) 375-5473.

July 7 - North Central Hangar Fly-In Breakfast & Big Kids Toy Show - Big Sandy Airport.

July 11-15 – Northwest EAA Fly-In and Sport Aviation Convention, Arlington, WA.

July 20-22 - Schafer Meadows Work Session.

July 21-22 – Civil Air Patrol aviation search & rescue USAF evaluated training exercise, Lewistown Airport. All pilots and aviation enthusiasts are welcome to observe.

July 21-22 – Dayton Air Show, for further information - phone (216) 781-0747, fax (216) 781-7810, website – www.airshowdayton.com.

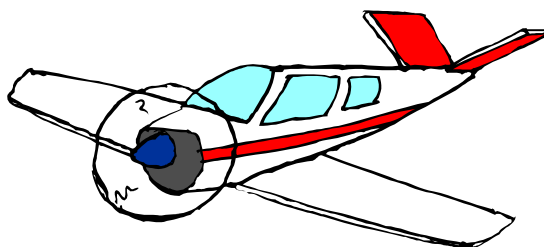
July 24-30 – 2001 EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

August 2-5 – MAAA Fly-In, Three Forks.

August 10-12 – FAA Family Fly-In and Flight Safety Conference, McCall, Idaho. For info call Jim Cooney (406) 449-5270.

September 1, 2 & 3 – Cleveland National Air Show, for further information - phone (216) 781-0747, fax (216) 781-7810, website – www.clevelandairshow.com

November 8-10 – AOPA Expo 2001 – Ft. Lauderdale/Broward County Conven-



**"Build one mile of highway...and it will take you one mile
Build one mile of runway...and it will take you anywhere."
-Al Ambrosini-**

Maintenance Awards & Aviation Conference...



Steve Jones, FAA presents the 2001 Montana and Northwest Mountain Region Aviation "Avionics Technician" of the Year award to Paul Lehman (left), Radio Shop Manager for Corporate Air, Billings and the "Maintenance Technician" of the year award to Reed Lamb, Director of Maintenance for Semitool Inc., Kalispell.



The "Diamond Certificate of Excellence" award was accepted for Big Sky Airlines by Mike Mahon (above left) and by Greg Jones for Neptune Aviation, this award is for the operator's efforts in aviation safety. The Mechanics Refresher Seminar draws a big crowd each year the 14-hour training program offers FAA approved IA renewal.



Saturday evening banquet speaker Bill Lishman kept the crowd extremely entertained with his presentation. Bill's accomplishments include pilot, artist, sculptor, filmmaker, author, inventor, naturalist and entrepreneur. A grand finale for a grand conference!



Montana artist, Toni Heckel donated one of her fine works of art to the conference, while everyone attending had their fingers crossed hoping to win Lenore Woolley of Hamilton held the lucky ticket, congratulations Lenore!



Dave Kimball (left), Rocky Mountain College accepts the Parrott Family Scholarship on behalf of Adam Goodover of Great Falls. Sponsor Doug Parrott retired Northwest Airlines Captain presented the \$1,000 scholarship to be used for the Rocky Mountain College aviation program.



Ray Sanders of Kalispell was the winner of a western jacket donated by Ken Beleshko of Edmonton, Canada. Donations such as this are just another reason the conference is so successful. Thanks so much to everyone who gives so generously.



The conference not only offers great speakers, sessions and exhibits; it's also a chance for old and new friends to get together and enjoy each other's company.

Challenge Aviation with Education

A workshop for Educators was held March 1-3, 2001, in Kalispell, as a part of the Montana Aviation Conference. Attendees were pleasantly surprised with all the topics and events that were covered at this year's workshop. The teachers will be taking aviation and aerospace concepts that can be applied to science, math, art, social studies, and language back to their classrooms.

Richard Klein, specializing in aviation education, was the keynote presenter for the teacher workshop. Each teacher received a sheet that demonstrated how the various activities aligned with the Montana Standards. Richard uses the movie, "A Bird in the Head" starring the Three Stooges, to get the students attention. It works, and they are ready for the aviation unit. Using the Montana aeronautical chart, Richard demonstrated several projects for math and social studies. Lessons on latitude and longitude were made easy by using the game of tic-tac-toe. Next, a lesson in runway construction with cost calculations and compass orientation. Richard gave websites and resources and has already been helping the teachers in their curriculum set up. **Kudos, to Mr. Richard Klein, from Chicago!**

Jim Litz, a teacher presenter from Target Range School in Missoula, built a hot air balloon and Kaye Belt, also from Target Range, acted out the role of Christa



The workshop concluded with airplane rides in a V-77 Stinson Gullwing owned and piloted by Dick Schaus of Kalispell and the Aeronautics Division's A-36 Bonanza piloted by Jeanne MacPherson. Pictured above Dick presents certificates of flight to workshop participants.

McAuliffe's preparation for her flight into space. Len Wheeler, from the FAA, Helena's Flight Standards Office, brought in a flight simulator for both teacher and student flights. David Bixby, a teacher presenter from Hellgate School in Missoula, used a hands-on exercise in geometry to build a tetrahedral kite. The teachers all built a kite and did a flight demonstration, Bravo!

Saturday morning, Peter Graf, a flight instructor from Bozeman, did a thorough preflight inspection of a Cessna provided

by Red Eagle Aviation. Dick Schaus, a commercial pilot and Physics Professor from Flathead Community College of Kalispell treated the teachers to a fly by in his camouflage V-77 Stinson Gullwing. Both Dick Schaus and Jeanne MacPherson of the Montana Aeronautics Division then treated the teachers to an orientation flight in the beautiful Flathead Valley. **Turn a teacher on to aviation and you reach many!**



Peter Graf of Bozeman uses aerodynamic concepts in his preflight demonstration.

FAA Inspection Authorization Exam

Rocky Mountain College Aviation has added the FAA Inspection Authorization (IA) knowledge exam at the Lasergrade Testing Center. The RMC Testing Center provides exams for anyone seeking FAA certification. Standard testing hours are 1000-1400 on Monday-Wednesday and 1000-1300 on Thursday. To register for any of the FAA exams call the RMC Testing Center at (406) 657-1062.

International Young Eagles Day

Young people around the world will again have the opportunity to “take to the air” on Saturday, June 9, as the EAA Aviation Foundation hosts its eighth annual *International Young Eagles Day*. The event, the most ambitious internationally coordinated effort held in conjunction with the Foundation’s Young Eagles Program: each year, seeks to introduce thousands of kids to the world of flight in a single day.

The Young Eagles Program was launched during the 1992 EAA Fly-In Convention at Oshkosh, WI. Its goal is to provide one million young people with a free demonstration airplane ride by December 17, 2003 – the 100th anniversary of powered flight and the 50th anniversary year of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). Most Young Eagles are flown throughout the year, but International Young Eagles Day brings a special focus to this unique volunteer program.

“As of today (March 22), we are now just 1,000 days away from the 100th anniversary of powered flight and our target day for one million Young Eagles,” said Steve Buss, Young Eagles Program Executive Director. “While thousands of our volunteer pilots and ground support people are dedicated to flying kids throughout the year, International Young Eagles Day is a special time to celebrate on the accomplishments of this program and the difference it has made in the world of flight. As we near our goal, it’s exciting to be a part of this program.”

More than 670,000 young people and 28,000 volunteer pilots have already participated in the Young Eagles Program. Those pilots have helped kids gain a new perspective on the world in which they live and the role aviation plays in their everyday lives. The pilots have also become “aviation mentors” and shared their knowledge and experience with a new generation of aviation enthusiasts. The program also brings families out to local airports, where they discover the important resource an airport is to a community.

As in past years, dozens of flight rallies will be held on as many as five continents (North and South America, Australia, Asia and Europe). In addition to the many large flight rallies scheduled, individual EAA pilots will provide airplane rides to kids in their local area on (or about) June 9 as well as throughout the year.

Gen. Chuck Yeager, Honorary Chairman of the Young Eagles Program, has personally flown more than 150 young people since becoming Honorary Chairman in January 1994. He has traditionally participated in International Young Eagles Day each year. Not to mention our own Jeanne MacPherson of Montana Aeronautics who has flown over 2,000 Young Eagles, great job Jeanne!

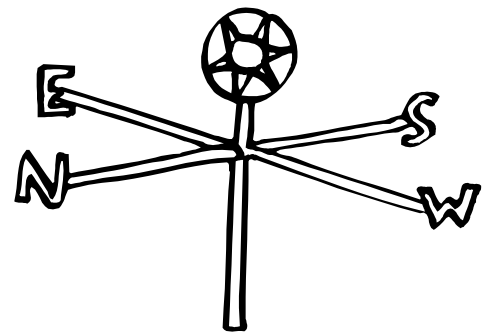
EAA members who are not pilots can also participate in International Young Eagles Day through ground activities at flight rallies or by bringing together an EAA pilot and a young person for a demonstration flight. Other designated organizations that have associated with EAA for the Young Eagles Program will also participate.

“Involvement has been the key to making the Young Eagles Program successful,” Buss said. “The goal of flying one million Young Eagles is very attainable. Each one of us who enjoys the world of flight must share our enthusiasm with someone eager to learn more. That is the challenge for all EAA members and everyone involved in aviation.”

The Young Eagles Logbook, other information and a schedule of events can be accessed through the Young Eagles World Web site (www.youngeagles.org).

Nominations for Young Eagle Awards

Nominations for the 2001 Young Eagle Awards are open. These awards were established to recognize outstanding efforts on behalf of the Young Eagles Program. The awards will be presented at a special ceremony held at “Theater in the Woods” on Wednesday, July 25, 2001. The categories are: Outstanding Field Representative; Outstanding Chapter Coordinator; Outstanding Ground Support Volunteer; Horizons (recognizing programs or services developed to further extend the reach of the Young Eagles Program to young people); and a Young Eagles Humanitarian award (recognizing special efforts for special people). Each award is presented to a group or individual nominated by fellow volunteers. A panel at EAA Headquarters reviews the nominations. If you have someone in mind for any of these awards, please forward a letter of nomination along with any background materials to the Young Eagles Office, Attn: Awards Committee, PO Box 2683, Oshkosh, WI 54903-2683. The deadline for nomination is June 1, 2001. Help recognize outstanding Young Eagle Volunteers with your nomination.



Laurel Aviation and Technology Week May 14-18, 2001

The Laurel Public School system and the City of Laurel are hosting the 5th Aviation and Technology Awareness Week on May 14-18, 2001. The last Aviation and Technology Awareness Week held in 1998 was a great success and was an excellent free-of-charge learning experience for over **17,000 students**.

Many military and government agencies are sending static displays, and will be doing flyovers. Some of the flyovers include F-16s, B-12, B-52, KC-135, F-15, T-38, F-14, C-130, B-2, C-141, and an A-10. The agencies will also send speakers to each of the schools in Laurel. Over 120 commercial and general aviation aircraft are scheduled to be in Laurel and Billings. A jet car, gliders, parachutes, hot air balloons, parasails, and World War II aircraft will be present!

A few of the companies and agencies that will be a part of this awesome event are; Boeing, Corporate Air, Lynch Flying Service, Delta Airlines, Northwest Airlines, United Airlines, Montana State University, Rocky Mountain College, University of North Dakota, Montana Aeronautics Division, Experimental Aircraft Association, Antique Aircraft Association, Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard and NASA. The states involved are Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Missouri, Washington, Kansas and California.

This event is free and open to the public, call Laurel School (406) 628-6919 for more information. Come and join in, you have not seen anything like this in schools before. **HATS OFF** to the City of Laurel, the Laurel School District and teacher Jack Bayne!

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